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# Borough of Congleton.

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## REPORT

OF THE

### Medical Officer of Health

*For the Year ending December 31st, 1925.*

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P. T. CATTO,

M.B., Ch.B.

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J. T. Dishley, Printer, Congleton.



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## BOROUGH OF CONGLETON.

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*Report of the Medical Officer of Health,  
For the Year ending 31st December, 1925.*

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*To the Mayor and Members of the Town Council.*

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Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1925 is a Survey Report, and deals with the progress which has been made in Public Health affairs in the Borough during the past five years, together with the various factors which have affected the general health of the inhabitants.

Each subject is dealt with comprehensively under its appropriate heading.

Area (acres)	2572
Population (1921)	11910
Population (1925, estimated)	12130

*Physical Features and General Character of the Borough of Congleton.*

The main portion of the town is built on a slope, rising from the southern side of the River Dane, but in recent years there has been considerable development of the residential class of house in the Mossley area.

The levels of the Borough vary from 260 feet to 700 feet above sea level, the lowest land being near the river and the highest on Congleton Edge. The level of the area covered by the business part of the town varies from 262 to 320 feet above sea level.

The general subsoil of the area is boulder clay with an average depth of 100 feet; beneath this is red marl and sandstone; small

areas have a subsoil of sand and gravel pockets that occur in the drift. The residential area of Mossley is built on boulder clay, and several external beds of peat are found in the Congleton Moss district.

The geological formation of Congleton Edge consists of shales with two large beds of sandstone near the summit.

Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	2810
Number of Inhabited Houses (1925)	2919
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1921)	2848
Rateable Value (1925)	£43088
Sum represented by a penny rate (1925)	£153

#### *Social Conditions.*

The main industries of Congleton are Silk Spinning, Velvet Cutting, Towel Weaving, the manufacture of Shirts, Skirts, Blouses and similar articles of Clothing, and Tobacco Manufacturing. Within recent years artificial silk has been used in the manufacture of wearing apparel. None of these trades are unhealthy, and the employment of women is general in them all. A proportion of men work as colliers and iron workers in neighbouring districts.

The Mossley District is gradually becoming more and more residential for business men whose occupations take them to neighbouring towns.

#### *Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.*

Total Births, 112 Male, 114 Female.

Legitimate, 108 Male, 111 Female.

Illegitimate, 4 Male, 3 Female.

Birth Rate (1925) 18.6

Birth Rate (1924) 20.1

Birth Rate for England and Wales (1925) 18.3

Total Deaths, 72 Male, 93 Female.

Death Rate (1925) 13.6

Death Rate (1924) 15.7

Death Rate for England and Wales (1925) 12.2



**Causes of death :—**

Scarlet Fever	I
Whooping Cough	4
Influenza	4
Encephalitis Lethargica	I
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	II
Other Tuberculous Diseases	3
Cancer, malignant disease	32
Diabetes	I
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	9
Heart Disease	22
Arterio-Sclerosis	7
Bronchitis	20
Pneumonia (all forms)	9
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	I
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	I
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	4
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	8
Deaths from Violence	7
Other defined diseases	18

Number of Coroner's Inquests held in the Borough in 1925, 12

**Deaths from Zymotic Diseases during 1925 :—**

Smallpox (all ages)	0
Measles (all ages)	0
Scarlet Fever (all ages)	I
Diphtheria (all ages)	0
Whooping Cough (all ages)	4
Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	0
Enteric Fever (all ages)	0

Zymotic Death Rate (1925) .4	Zymotic Death Rate (1924) .6	
Tuberculosis Death Rate (1925) 1.1		
Tuberculosis Death Rate (1924) .9		
Number of Marriages (1925) 98	Number of Marriages (1924) 102	
Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—		
Legitimate 13.	Illegitimate 1.	Total 14.
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1000 Births (1925) 61.9		
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1000 Births (1924) 97.9		
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1000 Births for England and Wales (1925) 75		

The Amount of Poor Law Relief granted during the year ending December 31st, 1925, for the Borough of Congleton, £5226 8s. 3d.

#### ***General Provision of Health Services in the area.***

##### ***Hospitals.***

(1) Tuberculosis—Wrenbury Hall Sanatorium and Training Colony belonging to the Cheshire County Council is available for early and curable cases; 46 beds are reserved at Hyde, Crewe, Chester and Cranham for advanced cases; the County Tuberculosis Officer has authority to obtain other suitable accommodation if required.

(2) Maternity—Manchester Maternity Hospital. There is also a Maternity Ward in the North Staffordshire Infirmary.

(3) Children—Manchester; and at the Cripples Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent.

(4) Fever—West Heath Sanatorium belongs to the Congleton and District Joint Hospital Board, and is supported by the Town Council and other neighbouring Authorities. It is used for the treatment of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, and if beds are available at the time for Cerebro-spinal Meningitis. Accommodation has been found sufficient.

(5) Smallpox—Maintained by Authorities in Congleton Union area at Arclid. Accommodation has been found sufficient.

(6) Other—Congleton War Memorial Hospital, Hospitals at Manchester and Stoke-on-Trent, all supported by voluntary efforts.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children, except through the Poor Law Authorities.

Ambulance facilities:—

(a) For Infectious Cases—The Board of the West Heath Sanatorium obtained in 1925 a Motor Ambulance comprising two compartments, one of which is for the patient and nurse, and the other is a zinc lined compartment for removing infected fomites. This now takes the place of the old Horse Ambulance.

(b) For Non-infectious and accident cases—The Police have a hand ambulance. The Council are at present considering the purchase of a Motor Ambulance for this type of case.

***Clinics and Treatment Centres available.***

Type of Centre	Name and Situation	Provided by
Tuberculosis	Chapel Street, Congleton	Cheshire County Council
Maternity & Child Welfare	12, West Street, Congleton	Cheshire County Council
Day Nurseries	None	
School Clinics	12, West Street, Congleton	Local Education Authority
(a) Minor Ailments Clinic	12, West Street, Congleton	Local Education Authority
(b) Eye Clinic		
(c) Dental Clinic		
Venereal Diseases	Manchester Hospitals North Staffordshire Infirmary	

***Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.***

Medical Officer of Health.—P. T. Catto, M.B., Ch.B., Aberdeen University. Also School Medical Officer for Congleton. Is a part-time officer. A contribution to his salary is received under the Public Health Acts.

The Borough Surveyor, who is also Sewage and Water Engineer,—Mr. W. H. Duncan Arthur, M.C., M.S.E., M.I.M.C.E., M.I.W.E., F.I.S.E., M.I.Struc.E.

Sanitary Inspector, Mr. W. J. Eversett, who also carries out the duties under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, Factory and Workshops Act, Rag Flock Act, Housing of the Working Classes Acts, Canal Boats Acts, and Food and Meat Inspection. Holds the Nuisance Inspector's and Meat Inspector's Certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and is a full time officer, a contribution to his salary is received under the Public Health Acts.

The Chief Constable, Mr. E. N. Christie, is Inspector of Common Lodging Houses, and undertakes the duties under the Food and Drugs Acts and Milk and Cream Regulations. He is a whole time officer.

Veterinary Inspector.—Mr. J. B. Garside, M.R.C.V.S., is a part-time officer.

Borough Analyst.—Mr. E. Melling, F.I.C., F.C.S., is a part-time officer.

#### PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME :—

(a) General—The Congleton District Nurse Society is supported entirely by voluntary contributions, and there is no financial arrangement or scheme of co-ordination between it and the Local Authority. The Society employs a fully trained district nurse, and also an untrained nurse who obtained hospital experience during the late war.

(b) For Infectious Diseases —There is no provision for home nursing of infectious cases: if the situation arose there is no doubt the Town Council would meet it.

Midwives—There are 6 Midwives practising in the Borough of Congleton.

The Local Authority does not employ or make any subsidy to practising midwives.

**Chemical Work**—This is undertaken by the Borough Analyst. Chemical examination of the water supply of the Borough has been regularly carried out, and all reports were satisfactory. He also examines samples of Sewage and samples under the Food and Drugs Act, Condensed Milk and Milk and Cream Regulations.

**Legislation in Force**—Local Acts, Special Local Orders, General Adoptive Acts, and byelaws relating to the public health, in force in the area.

In 1920, the Town Council passed the following resolutions:—

(1) **Typhoid-Fæces-Urine**.—That arrangements be made for this facility if Bacteriologist advises after negative blood test, and with the approval of the Medical Officer of Health.

(2) **Dysentery-Fæces**.—That the Council allow such examinations to be made for initial diagnosis, but only with the permission of the Medical Officer of Health.

(3) **Tetanus Antitoxic Serum**.—That a small quantity be stocked.

(4) **Cerebro-Spinal Fever Anti-meningococcic Serum**.—That the Medical Officer of Health be allowed to obtain this serum for any case that cannot be immediately admitted to the Isolation Hospital, but that the same be not stocked.

**Adoptive Acts, Byelaws, and Local Regulations relating to the public health, in force in the Borough, with date of adoption:**—

Congleton Inclosure Act, 1795.

Borough of Congleton (West Road) Housing Confirmation Order, 1920.

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.

Congleton Gas and Improvement Act, 1866.

Parts II, III, and Section 95, comprised in Part X of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (adopted 20th Jan., 1914)

Public Health Act Amendments Act, 1890 (adopted 4th Feb., 1891.)

Congleton and District Joint Hospital Order, 1904

Congleton Order of 1904, being a provisional order for altering the Congleton Gas and Improvement Act, 1866.

Congleton Inclosure Act Amendment Act, 1849.

Congleton Gas (Temporary Increase of Charges) Order 1919.

Borough of Taunton, etc. (Measles & German Measles) Regulations, 1920.

Byelaws with regard to New Streets and Buildings, Slaughterhouses, Cleansing of Pavements, Nuisances, Hackney Carriages, and Common Lodging Houses, 1889.

Byelaws with regard to Pleasure Grounds, 1890.

*Sanitary Circumstances of the area.*

Water—The supply is obtained from springs which break out from a wide deposit of glacial sands on the left bank of the River Dane at West Heath, and is augmented from a small spring supply on Congleton Edge known as Corda Well. The supply is constant and ample but there is a lack of storage which it is hoped to remedy this year by the provision of two additional reservoirs. There is no risk of contamination and the water has no plumbo-solvent action ; the Analyst's reports have invariably been satisfactory.

Every house in the district has a proper and sufficient supply of water, the bulk being served by the public authority.

Rivers and Streams—The Dane is a slightly polluted river. The chief source of pollution is a stream which joins the Dane just above the Borough. This stream contains the effluent of several factories situated outside the Borough, where considerable amounts of chemicals are used in the manufacturing processes. A certain amount of sewage from some of the outlying parts of the district finds its way into the Dane. The water closets of one Congleton factory discharge their contents directly into the River Dane.

There is no pollution of rivers or streams from the public sewage works.

The Rivers Pollution Committee of the County Council controls the pollution.

**Drainage and Sewerage**—The bulk of the sewage is domestic and only a small percentage is trade sewage. The parts of the Borough which have no proper sewerage system are: Dane-in-Shaw, West Heath, The Marsh, parts of Mossley, Congleton Edge, and certain isolated farms. A scheme is at present under the consideration of the Council for seweraging the whole of the Mossley and Dane-in-Shaw area and the erection of a small disposal works in that vicinity to cope with the sewage from this area, which lies too low for its sewage to gravitate to the existing outfall works.

The effluent from the Sewage Disposal Works is analysed at intervals and has been found satisfactory.

#### Closet Accommodation :—

Number of each type of Closet, and also of Dry Ashpits at the end of 1925 :—

Water Closets	... 1505, an increase of 121.
Pail Closets	... 2453, a decrease of 3.
Privy Middens	... 10, a decrease of 14.
Dry Ashpits	... 28 in outlying districts.
Slop Closets	... 22, a decrease of 2.

#### Conversion of Closets :—

Year	Pails to Water Closets	Privies to Water Closets	Privies to Pail Closets
1921	13	12	42
1922	13	13	15
1923	8	1	3
1924	13	3	4
1925	21	3	11 (in outlying districts)

There is no definite policy of conversion in operation. Privy Middens have been converted by notice from the Sanitary Inspector, or by statutory notice served in consequence of his report

to the Council. Each case is taken on its merits and dealt with under Section 36 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

**Scavenging**—House refuse is collected weekly, being removed to a tip situated on the North Edge of the Borough. Pail closets are emptied weekly; there are no earth closets in the district. There are only 5 cesspools, these and the few remaining privies are situated in outlying districts and are emptied on notice from the occupier.

Dry Ashpits abolished or replaced by	
Movable Receptacles—1921—58	
	1922— 6
	1923— 4
	1924—none
	1925— 1

We have no record of the number of covered receptacles provided, but probably 60% of them are galvanized iron ash-tins. As soon as the newly made Building Byelaws come into force all future receptacles will be galvanized iron ash-tins.

**Sanitary Inspection of the area**—The details of this will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Tabular Statement at the end of this report. It will be seen that the total number of inspections made was 4063, of which 730 inspections were inspections of Common Lodging Houses made by the Borough Police, the Chief Constable being the Inspector for Common Lodging Houses. The defects found by the Sanitary Inspector were chiefly defective drains, defective yards, dampness, and defective plastering. The number of notices served was 2 statutory and 275 informal; 245 of these have been complied with and 30 remain in hand.

The Chief Constable reports that there are 2 Registered Common Lodging Houses in the Borough, with a total accommodation for 60 lodgers nightly. These have been visited daily, also occasionally at night time and found to be properly conducted. During the year 10,790 persons have been lodged, being a decrease of 1,662 persons compared with 1924.

**Smoke Abatement**—During 1925 there was no action taken with regard to smoke abatement.

**Premises and occupations which can be controlled by Byelaws or Regulations**—The only Byelaws in force in the Borough for controlled premises and occupations are the Common Lodging House Byelaws; Slaughterhouses Byelaws; Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops Regulations, and the General Nuisances Byelaws.

There are no underground sleeping rooms in the Borough.

**Schools**—The drainage of all the schools is connected to the public sewer, and all are supplied by water from the Congleton town supply. The urinals and w.c.'s. are inspected periodically by the Medical Officer of Health, who is also School Medical Officer, and by the Sanitary Inspector. Any defects found are immediately remedied.

During the week ending 27th in the month of February the average attendance at Mossley School dropped below 60% on account of the prevalence of influenza.

As a consequence of a case of Smallpox having been notified on the 11th June, 1925, at premises situated in Swan Street, children residing in Swan Street, Nelson Street, Waggs Road, Lion Street, and Lime Street, were not permitted to attend Day or Sunday Schools, Picture Palaces, or other places where persons congregated together. Children from other parts of the town were prohibited from visiting that area. This order held good from the 12th June, until 1st July, and during that period the average attendance in Wagg Street School fell below 60%.

### ***Housing.***

#### I.—General Housing Conditions in the area :—

1. General Housing Conditions: Are fairly satisfactory.
2. (a) Extent of Shortage or Excess of houses.

There is still a serious shortage of houses in the Borough causing a great deal of overcrowding, which under present conditions it is impossible to abate. The clearance schemes decided upon by the Council in the Survey of 1919 cannot be proceeded with

until this shortage has been remedied. The houses which were scheduled in this survey for total demolition are still occupied as are also the houses which were scheduled for reconstruction. It is very probable that unless building proceeds at a greater speed than at present, these conditions will remain.

(b) Measures taken or contemplated to meet any shortage:—

	Number of new houses erected as part of a municipal housing scheme	Total Number of new houses erected
1921	14	19
1922	124	125
1923	none	6
1924	none	22
1925	40	69

3. Information as to any important changes in population during the period under review or anticipated in the future—No important change. The population continues to increase slowly. Unless some new industry starts in the Borough no important change is likely to take place, but there are more marriages per annum than houses being provided from all sources.

## II.—Overcrowding:—

1. Extent: There are about 180 houses in the Borough which are overcrowded.
2. Cause: Shortage of houses, and also smallness of houses. Most of the cottage houses are of the 2 bedroom type.
3. Measures taken, or contemplated for dealing with overcrowding: 40 houses on the West End site were erected by the Council during 1925.
4. Principal cases of overcrowding during the year 1925, and action taken. Council Houses, as they become vacant are granted to people in overcrowded houses.

### III.—Fitness of houses:—

1. (a) General Standard of Housing in the area—The latest houses which have been erected are excellent, but the old houses in the Borough are of a moderate standard.
- (b) General Character of the defects found to exist in unfit houses—Deficient lighting and ventilation, deficient yard space, and defective yard paving, defective pointing and spouting, ground damp, insufficient cubic space in rooms, deficient bedroom accommodation, houses built in courts and yards, back to back houses, and obstructive houses.
- (c) How far defects are due to the lack of proper management and supervision by owners—To a considerable extent.
2. General action taken as regards unfit houses under—
  - (a) The Public Health Acts: 75 informal notices were served during 1925, and 66 defects were remedied.
  - (b) The Housing Acts—32 houses were inspected and defects remedied under the Public Health Acts.
3. Difficulties found in remedying unfitness, either under the Public Health Acts, or under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925; special measures taken or suggested, including for example, any special action to secure improved management of property by owners, or better care of property by tenants; the gradual carrying out of repairs according to agreed arrangements; or any special method of dealing with unfit back to back houses, or other types of insanitary property.  
Alternate accommodation is very limited at present. The cost of labour and materials is still high. No special measures have been taken.
4. Conditions, so far as they affect housing, as regards water supply, closet accommodation, and refuse disposal, together with measures taken during the year in these matters—Water supply is good and sufficient for present needs. The number of pail closets in the town is still large, but is being decreased

gradually. The tipping of the Refuse presents no difficulty. No special measures were taken during the year.

#### IV.—Unhealthy areas:—

Information as to complaints received or representations made, and action taken, in regard to unhealthy areas—Nothing yet done with regard to the 1919 Scheme on account of Shortage of Houses. Clearance of unhealthy areas is impossible under present conditions.

#### V.—Byelaws relating to houses, to houses let in lodgings, and to tents, vans, sheds, etc. :—

1. As to working of existing byelaws—The byelaws in force in regard to the above are, New Streets and Buildings Byelaws, Nuisance Byelaws, and Common Lodging House Byelaws, which were framed in 1889. New Building Byelaws have been submitted for the approval of the Ministry of Health.
2. As to need for new byelaws or revision of existing byelaws—They require bringing up to date.

#### VI.—General and Miscellaneous:—None.

#### *Housing Statistics for the year 1925.*

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including number given separately under b)	69
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:	
(i) By the Local Authority	40
(ii) By other bodies or persons	24

#### I.—Unfit dwelling houses.

- Inspection—
1. Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 539
  2. Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 37
  3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation none

4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 75

## II.—Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

- Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 48

## III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

### A.—Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Acts, 1925.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs none
2. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—
  - (a) by owners none
  - (b) by Local Authority in default of owners none
3. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close none

### B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 75
2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied
  - (a) by owners 66
  - (b) by Local Authority in default of owners None

### C.—Proceedings under sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders None
2. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made None
3. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit None

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| 4. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | None |
| 5. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders    | None |

***Inspection and Supervision of Food.***

(a) Milk Supply—The Milk sold within the Borough is generally of a good and clean standard. The Borough of Congleton is situated in a dairy farming district, and there is more than an adequate supply to meet the needs of the populace. A good many of the retailers now deliver the milk in sealed bottles, and this is a custom which is growing. All milk producers and retailers are registered, and all Cowsheds, Dairies, and Milkshops in the Borough are visited from time to time by the Sanitary Inspector. The premises are generally in a satisfactory condition. During the year 6 notices were served for defects, and these were complied with.

I.—Action taken as to tuberculous milk and tuberculous cattle:—  
No action was taken as to tuberculous milk during 1925. 7 cows were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

II.—Number of licences granted for the sale of milk under special designations classified as in the Fourth Schedule to the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923; types of apparatus licensed for the pasteurisation of milk.

Only 1 licence was granted for sale of milk under special designation, *viz* :—one for pasteurisation of milk, to the Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd. Milk Depôt, Station Yard, Congleton. The plant used is made by this Society, and described by them as the “Retarding Process.” It is automatic in action. The milk is passed into tanks where it is heated to a temperature of from 145 deg. to 150 deg. F. It is held at this temperature for half-an-hour and then released and immediately cooled to a temperature of from 40 deg. to 45 deg. F.

III.—Refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk, with reasons for the refusal or revocation. None.

IV.—The summarized results of the bacteriological examination of samples of graded and other milk. None were taken during 1925.

1. (b) Meat—Meat inspection (including arrangements for inspection at the time of slaughter and for marking under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924); disease in meat and arrangements for the disposal of condemned meat.

Meat is inspected in the Slaughterhouses at time of Slaughter and also in the Shops, etc., as far as possible by the Sanitary Inspector who is a certified Meat inspector. There is no system of marking in the Borough, the Council having decided not to apply to the Ministry of Health for sanction to use a mark. This could only be practicable if every carcase could be examined which under present arrangements is impossible and could only be done if a Special Meat Inspector were appointed. At present the Sanitary Inspector has no assistance of any kind, hence it is impossible for him to do justice to the work.

Diseased meat is buried in quicklime in the Refuse Tip. During the year 1,870 lbs of meat have been destroyed under the Regulations in addition to the 7 carcases destroyed under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

2. Administration of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, as regards stalls, shops, stores, and vehicles. Are inspected by the Sanitary Inspector as far as possible.
3. The Management of the Public Slaughter-houses (if any). None in the Borough.

#### *Private Slaughterhouses in the Borough.*

	In 1920	In Jan., 1925	In Dec., 1925
Registered	7	7	7
Licensed	4	4	4
Total	11	11	11

The Veterinary Inspector Reports :—

I have inspected the Cattle Market weekly except during the periods of Foot & Mouth Disease Restrictions when the Market was closed.

There have been seven cases of tuberculosis in cows in the Borough dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order of 1925.

(c) Other Foods—These are inspected by the Sanitary Inspector. The bakehouses, and other premises where foods are manufactured, prepared, stored or exposed for sale are kept generally in a good sanitary condition. No case has occurred in which special powers, other than those existing, have been found necessary.

(d) During the month of January a local practitioner in the Borough reported that he had a patient suffering from Botulism. A full investigation of the case was made by me, and the tin suspected of containing the contaminated food together with a report on the case was sent to the Ministry of Health at the time of occurrence. The Ministry reported that there was no evidence that botulism toxin was present in the tin; and the *Bacillus Botulinus* did not grow from its contents. The patient made a good recovery from his illness.

(e) Sale of Food and Drugs Acts—The Chief Constable reports that during the year the following samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst under the above Acts :— 12 milk, 2 ground ginger, 1 butter, 2 coffee, 1 common beer, 4 pepper, 2 cream of tartar, 1 Cheshire cheese, and 3 baking powder. 1 sample of milk was found to be 16.6 per cent. deficient in milk fat, and the vendor was brought before the Court and convicted.

8 samples of condensed milk were taken and all conformed with the requirements in respect of the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923.

(f) Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912 and 1917. 2 samples of preserve cream were taken and contained 0.25% and 0.10%

Boric Acid respectively and conformed with the requirements of these regulations.

3 samples of tinned cream were taken and found to be genuine and contained no boron preservatives.

#### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES. INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

The following table shows the number of Infectious Diseases which have been notified during the 5 years under review.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	2
Diphtheria	14	14	14	14	7
Scarlet Fever	9	56	127	67	42
Typhoid Fever	3	1	0	1	5
Pneumonia	32	59	31	24	33
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	10	8	2	2	1
Erysipelas	7	7	6	4	6
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis Respiratory	17	14	13	7	10
Tuberculosis Other Forms	5	2	8	4	4
Puerperal Fever	0	2	0	1	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	1	0	1	2
Measles	17	140	185	199	66
German Measles	0	5	3	1	6

The Medical Officer of Health keeps a stock of Diphtheria Antitoxin which he supplies to the Medical Practitioners in the Borough on request. It is used promptly by all the practitioners.

4 cases of Encephalitis Lethargica occurred during this period, 3 of the cases died, and one recovered.

Scarlet Fever was very prevalent during the last four years. This prevalence has not been confined to Congleton, but has been widespread throughout the whole country. I think the modern facilities for travel has a great deal to do with the spread of this disease. There were no "return" cases of Scarlet Fever.

2 cases of Smallpox occurred in the Borough during the year 1925. The first case occurred on the 11th June and was that of an unvaccinated girl who had come to Congleton on the 30th May, from Adwick-le-Street Urban District, Doncaster. The case was removed to the Arclid Smallpox Hospital on the same day as notification. The second case occurred on the 25th June, and was that of a re-vaccinated woman living in the same house. This case was also removed to the Smallpox Hospital on the day of notification. The diagnosis of each case was confirmed by the Medical Officer of Health for the Borough and the County Medical Officer of Health. The greatest possible precautions were taken to prevent the spread of infection with the gratifying result that no other cases occurred in the Borough. During the 3 months following the occurrence of the first case, Chicken-pox was made a notifiable disease in the Borough and 27 cases were notified.

The Public Vaccinator was able to cope with all individuals requiring vaccination and re-vaccination so that no vaccinations or re-vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

The Public Vaccinator performed the following vaccinations and re-vaccinations during 1925:—

	Primary Vaccinations	Re-vaccinations
Performed during June, 1925	91	42
Performed during July, 1925	24	4
Total during the year 1925	182	53

No cases of malaria, dysentery, or trench fever occurred during this period.

Bacteriological examinations are made at the Public Health Laboratory, University of Manchester, of specimens from patients suspected of suffering from Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, and Cerebro Spinal Meningitis, and the necessary outfits can be obtained from me. Sputum from suspected cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis are examined at the County Laboratory, Chester, and outfits can be obtained from the County Tuberculosis Officer or from myself.

### NUMBER OF SPECIMENS AND RESULTS OF EXAMINATIONS DURING 1925.

Suspected disease	No. of Specimens examined.	Positive Results
Diphtheria	25	2
Typhoid (Blood)	3	1
Tuberculosis	48	8

No use has been made in the Borough of the Schick and Dick tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively, or of the recently developed artificial methods of immunization against these diseases.

Amongst the non-notifiable acute infectious diseases Whooping Cough and Influenza are prevalent each winter, and cases of Chicken-pox occur to a less extent.

The Medical Officer of Health is also School Medical Officer so that any cases of infectious disease occurring amongst school children are immediately enquired into.

Number of deaths from influenza during the past five years:—  
1921, 8; 1922, 3; 1923, 2; 1924, 7; 1925, 4.

Number of deaths from cancer during the past five years:—  
1921, 6; 1922, 17; 1923, 8; 1924, 21; 1925, 32.

### *Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) During the Year 1925*

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	2	2	0
Scarlet Fever	42	22	1
Diphtheria	7	5	0
Enteric Fever (including Para-typhoid)	5	4	0
Puerperal Fever	1	0	0
Pneumonia	33	0	9
Erysipelas	6	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	2	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0	0
Chicken-pox (notifiable 3 months of year)	27	0	0
Measles	66	0	0
German Measles	6	0	0

**Tuberculosis.****NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1925**

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
I								
5								
10			I	I				
15					I			I
20	I							
25		I						
35	2	2						
45	I				2			
55	I	I					I	
65	I				I			
and upwards								
Totals	6	4	I	3	4	6	0	I

**PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis) REGULATIONS, 1925**

There are at present no tuberculous persons employed in the milk trade in the Borough.

**PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, Section 62**

In no case was it necessary for the Council to apply for an order for compulsory removal to hospital.

**MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE**

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	CASES						
	Notified	Treated		Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
		At Home	In Hospital				
	I	I	O	I	O	O	O

There were no cases of epidemic diarrhoea, or poliomyelitis during the year, and there was only one case of puerperal fever, and one case of ophthalmia neonatorum.

Of the 66 cases of measles, 43 occurred during the month of June and as a consequence the usual chest complications were reduced to a minimum.

Whooping Cough was prevalent to a slight degree amongst the children during the winter.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

P. T. CATTO, M.B., Ch.B.,

M.O.H., Congleton.

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J. T. Dishley, Printer, Congleton.

**CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.**

**General Order of Local Government Board (Medical Officer of Health and Inspectors of Nuisances December 13th, 1910).**

**BOROUGH OF CONGLETON.**

**Tabular Statement of Inspector of Nuisances for the Year ended December 31st, 1925.**

**W. J. EVERSETT, Sanitary Inspector.**

Number and Nature of Inspections Made.	Number	No. of Notices served		Result of Service of Notice			Prosecutions	Instit'd	Pen-ding
		Statut'y	Informal	Notice com plied with	Remaining in hand				
Dwelling Houses (general inspections) ..	539		75	66	9				
Cellar Dwellings ..	..								
Back-to-Back Houses ..	..								
Tents, Vans, Sheds &c. ..	38								
Courts, Yards, Passages ..	297		47	36	11				
Privy-Middens, Earth or Pail Closets ..	346	2	37	29	10				
Cesspools ..	4		1	1					
House Drainage ..	275		57	57					
Ditches, Watercourses, &c. ..	2								
Offensive Accumulations ..	14			6	6				
The Keeping of Animals (P.H.A., 1875, S. 91 (3)) ..	4		1	1					
Offensive Trades ..	14								
Slaughterhouses (Public) ..									
Slaughterhouses (Private) ..	330								
Other places where food is produced or sold ..	308								
Piggeries ..	90		2	2					
Dairies ..	41		1	1					
Cowsheds ..	51			5	5				
Milkshops ..	35								
Factories ..	66			4	4				
Workshops ..	61			5	5				
Workplaces ..									
Outworkers' Premises ..									
Bakehouses (Overground) ..	40			6	6				
Bakehouses (Underground) ..									
*Common Lodging Houses ..	738								
Houses let in Lodgings ..									
Smoke Observations ..									
Canal Boats ..									
Infectious Disease Inquiries and Revisits ..	401		17	17					
Miscellaneous ..	56		11	9	2				
<b>Totals</b> ..	.. 3750	2	275	245	32				

\*Inspections made by Borough Police.



